

# Curriculum Vitae

*Hugo Ariëns (1996) is a guitarist, improviser, and composer based in Den Haag. He has a deep fascination for sound that stems from his continuous obsession with the sonic properties of his instrument, the guitar. This drive led him to explore extended techniques and brought him to the prepared guitar. His innovative use of found objects not only expands the sonic palette of the guitar but also challenges traditional notions of playing technique and performance. As a live performer, Hugo is involved in many projects in areas as diverse as pop, jazz, acoustic folk, drone, noise, rock, and ambient music, but his main focus is currently on free improvisation.*

## Education

- Master Sonology at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, researching prepared tabletop electric guitar in improvised music. Studied under: [Richard Barrett](#), [Gabriel Paiuk](#), [Johan van Kreijl](#), [Justin Bennett](#) et al. (2021-2023)
- Bachelor Musician 3.0 at HKU Utrechts Conservatorium, mainly focussing on improvisation and prepared guitar. Studied under: [Wiek Hijmans](#), [Albert van Veenendaal](#), [Ned McGowan](#), [Esmee Olthuis](#) et al. (2016-2020)
- Preparatory year in jazz guitar at DJAM Amsterdam (2015)
- Lessons and masterclasses from: [Fred Frith](#), [Yuri Landman](#), [Raphael Vanoli](#), [Jasper Stadhouders](#), [Wilbert de Joode](#), [Michael Moore](#), [Wolter Wierbos](#), [Oscar Jan Hoogland](#), [Oene van Geel](#), [Kaja Draksler](#) et al.

## Work

- Musical leadership and performer for [Iris van Peppen | Co dance company](#) (2018-)
- Assistant to guitarist [Wiek Hijmans](#) (Maze, ASKO/Schönberg ensemble) (2019-2021)
- Active as live musician playing prepared guitar in places such as: [Tivoli Vredenburg](#), [Rewire Festival](#), [OCCII](#), [Gaudeamus Festival](#), [Paviljoen ongehoorde muziek](#), [PNEM Soundart Festival](#), [Zaal 100](#), [The Grey Space in the Middle](#), [OT301](#), [Theater Kikker](#), [Nationale Opera en Ballet](#), [Theater aan de Rijn](#), [Dansmakers Amsterdam](#),

[De Ruimte](#), [Amsterdam Fringe Festival](#), [AFAS live](#).

- Gave workshops at [HKU Design faculty](#) in performance together with [Iris van Peppen](#) (2019/2020)

## Current Projects

- **Improvising Object Guitar**
  - A research project that aims to deconstruct the prepared electric guitar and poses it as a fundamentally improvisational instrument.
- **Faux**
  - An ensemble of improvising musicians that embraces their personal differences and frictions and uses them to grow new musical connections. ([Otis Thomet](#), [Pedro Latas](#), [Quartus Vlak](#), [Hugo Ariëns](#))

## Research

- "[Improvising Object Guitar: Prepared Tabletop Electric Guitar In Improvised Music](#)" Master Thesis.
- The "[Object Guitar Archive](#)", a work-in-progress practice document and prepared guitar open resource.

## Misc.

- Part of the musician collective in '[De Onderbuik](#)' in Utrecht - A cold-war bunker that has been turned into a hub for improvising musicians.
- Working closely with the foundation [BUI](#) (Bevordering Utrechtse Improvisatie), a platform for improvised arts in Utrecht.



# Portfolio

## The Object Guitar Archive (2023 - )

A work-in-progress archive that documents Hugo's prepared tabletop guitar practice. The Object Guitar Archive is part of the practice method that Hugo developed especially for his instrument, which focuses on exploration and curiosity rather than the internalization of pre-existing musical material. The building blocks of the archive are the questions that arise during the practice sessions — these questions are what drives the practice forward.

## "Improvising Object Guitar: Prepared Tabletop Electric Guitar in Improvised Music" (Research Catalogue, 2023)

Hugo's master thesis at the institute of Sonology deconstructs the prepared tabletop electric guitar and reimagines the instrument in the context of improvised music. In this thesis, Hugo poses the prepared guitar as a fundamentally improvisational instrument: one that has improvisation infused in all its facets. For this research Hugo developed new instruments, a new understanding of the history and historical context of the prepared electric guitar, a method for collecting objects, a practice method with the Object Guitar Archive, and a live-performance approach.

## Golven Voor Altijd (Self-released, 2021)

A stream-of-consciousness collage of layers of prepared guitar.

### 202203160922 Object 26 (Ball Chain)

#prepared-guitar-research #prepared-guitar #prepared-guitar-implement #Prepared-guitar-technique



#### Type

- Origin: #Found-object #Artifact
- Function: #Exciter

#### RESEARCH CATALOGUE

AN INTERNATIONAL DATABASE FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH

Home Institutional Portals Journals Projects Researchers

Exposition | back to previous page

IMPROVISING OBJECT GUITAR (LAST EDITED: 2023)

Hugo Ariens



OPEN EXPOSITION

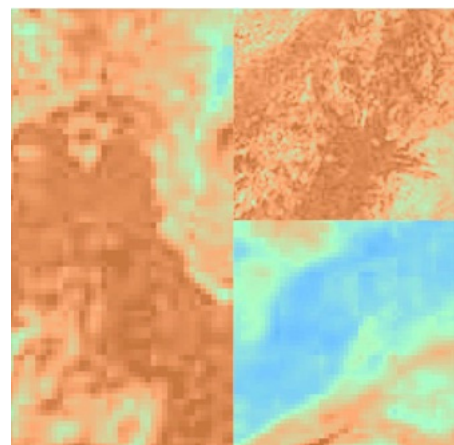
00

#### About this exposition

This thesis traces the transformation of a guitar where improvisation is infused in all of its facets. It explores the historical frame of the prepared guitar as an interpretation of the 1912 "Guitar" sculpture by Pablo Picasso's use of improvised techniques and prepared electric guitar practice as personal and recalcitrance of the objects used to prepare electric guitar fundamentally impossible to reduce to a single "assembly"—the arranging of disparate

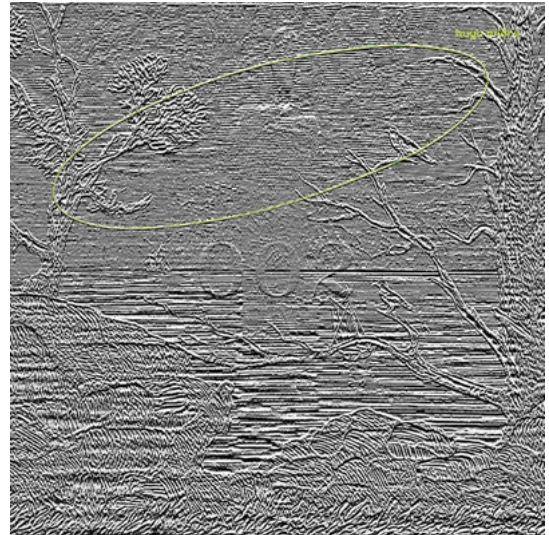
With this approach, I developed a series of experimental instruments explore novel platforms for experimentation. These instruments of the existing electric guitar. The 18-string electric guitar into a dedicated tabletop into down the electric guitar into fundamental of prepared guitar system. All the instruments constructions; each playing situation has a device modules.

Along with the instruments, I created a new electric guitar in improvised music. As music practice, the focus shifts to an exploration a progression of questions and curiosity, with Object Guitar Archive gives structure and co method spans the whole range of prepared is supported by the Object Guitar Archive.



**Ovaal 002 (Ovaal, 2021)**

Solo electric guitar performance recorded live at Annastate, Den Haag by Margherita Brillada and Hilde Wollenstein.



**Arkester live at Salon De Ijzerstaven (Salon De Ijzerstaven, 2019)**

Live performance video with improvisation group Arkester (Hilde Wollenstein, Krijn Moons, Koen Boeijinga, Gemma Luz Bosch, Max Baraitser Smith, and Hugo Ariëns) in collaboration with Iris van Peppen Co.



**Hugo Ariëns Live @ BUI (Faux Amis, 2018)**

Solo electric guitar performance recorded at Moira, Utrecht as part of BUI's free play session.

